



# ARMY MEDICINE | DPA SENDS

August 25, 2021

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. The Army Surgeon General, LTG R. Scott Dingle, "TSG SENDS: COVID-19 and Army Medicine" messages from this week are included for your awareness. Please read!

- **TSG SENDS - COVID-19 and Army Medicine 85 (August 19, 2021)**

2. **DCG(S) SENDS (August 19, 2021)**

COVID-19 Information:

- Army Medicine COVID-19 Hotline: **1-800-984-8523 or DSN 312-421-3700**
- Army: [www.army.mil/coronavirus](http://www.army.mil/coronavirus)
- APHC: <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19>
- CDC Web Page: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- DoD Web Page: [www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus](http://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus)
- Health.mil Web Page: <https://health.mil/News/In-the-Spotlight/Coronavirus>
- TRICARE Web Page: <https://tricare.mil/coronavirus>

## Army Medicine STRATEGIC VISION

### AUGUST OBSERVANCES

[Immunization & Influenza Month](#)

[Antiterrorism Month](#)

[Performance Triad Month](#)

[Coast Guard Birthday](#) - Aug 4

[Purple Heart Day](#) - Aug 7

[Department of Defense Birthday](#) - Aug 10

[Women's Equality Day](#) - Aug 26

## UPCOMING EVENT

2. **TSG Advisory Council Monthly Civilian Brown Bag Luncheon** - August 26, 12:00 EST

Our guest this month is Ms. Carey Klug, DCS, Special Staff, who will provide an overview regarding her civilian education and war college journey, which will provide valuable insights that help inform and prepare others as they navigate their professional training and education journey.

ZoomGov link: [www.zoomgov.com/j/1609691524?pwd=TVUrUWc2bnJGQ2dXZDFiOFNWdlRnZz09](http://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609691524?pwd=TVUrUWc2bnJGQ2dXZDFiOFNWdlRnZz09)

Meeting ID: 160 969 1524 Passcode: 458246 Find your local number: [www.zoomgov.com/u/adVvKkRlchg](http://www.zoomgov.com/u/adVvKkRlchg)

## ARMY MEDICINE WEEK IN REVIEW

### ARTICLES

1. Forensic Healthcare Program at WBAMC (August 24) [www.dvidshub.net/news/403791/forensic-healthcare-program-wbamac](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/403791/forensic-healthcare-program-wbamac)
2. EACH offers third COVID-19 vaccine dose for immunocompromised (August 23) [www.dvidshub.net/news/403754/each-offers-third-covid-19-vaccine-dose-immunocompromised](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/403754/each-offers-third-covid-19-vaccine-dose-immunocompromised)
3. "Cajun Dustoff" bids farewell to Salazar welcomes DiMaio (August 19) [www.dvidshub.net/news/403624/cajun-dustoff-bids-farewell-salazar-welcomes-dimaio](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/403624/cajun-dustoff-bids-farewell-salazar-welcomes-dimaio)
4. 2021 Army Medicine Best Leader Competition Winners Announced (August 19) [www.dvidshub.net/news/403523/2021-army-medicine-best-leader-competition-winners-announced](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/403523/2021-army-medicine-best-leader-competition-winners-announced)
5. Army Reserve unit trains with EACH (August 17) [www.dvidshub.net/news/403290/army-reserve-unit-trains-with-each](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/403290/army-reserve-unit-trains-with-each)
6. BACH enables readiness during Operation Pershing Strike '21 (August 17) [www.dvidshub.net/news/403275/bach-enables-readiness-during-operation-pershing-strike-21](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/403275/bach-enables-readiness-during-operation-pershing-strike-21)

### VIDEOS

1. Assessment Research Study for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (August 19) [www.dvidshub.net/video/810567/assessment-research-study-post-traumatic-stress-disorder](http://www.dvidshub.net/video/810567/assessment-research-study-post-traumatic-stress-disorder)
2. Having a Baby at Fort Riley?...Watch This (August 13) [www.dvidshub.net/video/810324/having-baby-fort-rileywatch](http://www.dvidshub.net/video/810324/having-baby-fort-rileywatch)
3. Order a New Prescription with Patient Portal (August 4) [www.dvidshub.net/video/810307/order-new-prescription-with-patient-portal](http://www.dvidshub.net/video/810307/order-new-prescription-with-patient-portal)
4. How to Communicate with Pharmacy on Patient Portal (August 3) [www.dvidshub.net/video/810306/communicate-with-pharmacy-patient-portal](http://www.dvidshub.net/video/810306/communicate-with-pharmacy-patient-portal)

**Women's Equality Day Event**

Please join HQDA Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity tomorrow, 25 AUG, from 1200-1230 ET for an opportunity to learn about "Empowering Women in the Workplace".

Mr. Kenyata L. Wesley, Sr, Executive Director Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground is the guest speaker for this event.

The MS Teams link for the event is:

[https://dod.teams.microsoft.us/j/19%3adod%3ameeting\\_582bbb470585490a95a07b0e4b7346be%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22fae6d70f-954b-4811-92b6-0530d6f84c43%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%228df5c780-08ce-4214-adbd-d9e0fbb43908%22%7d](https://dod.teams.microsoft.us/j/19%3adod%3ameeting_582bbb470585490a95a07b0e4b7346be%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22fae6d70f-954b-4811-92b6-0530d6f84c43%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%228df5c780-08ce-4214-adbd-d9e0fbb43908%22%7d)

The POC for questions is Ms. Danielle Allen at [Danielle.j.allen6.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Danielle.j.allen6.civ@mail.mil)



Army Medicine Family,

We are all watching the U.S. military departure from operations in Afghanistan and many of us served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in the Afghanistan theatre. I join our Army Chief of Staff when I say how proud I am of your service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Your service was noble, and I encourage you to continue to take pride in what you accomplished there.

I also want to welcome our new Chaplain in the National Capital Region. Chaplain Grace Hollis is now on board to support all of your prayer, counseling, and support needs.

The increase in the COVID-19 Delta variant cases have caused the cancelation of the 2021 DOD Warrior Games. I extend my sincerest thank you to all of the Soldiers and Veterans who have spent this year sacrificing and training in preparation. We all look forward to being a part of the 2022 Games.

In a related note, the Paralympics will no longer be open to in-person spectators, but we will still be cheering on Team U.S. Army Medicine's own CPT Kelly Elmlinger, who is among the competitors. Read more about Kelly here: <https://news4sanantonio.com/sports/san-antonio-proud-local-army-medic-to-compete-in-paralympics>.

This week we meet MAJ Wanda Vaa in the employee spotlight.

### **Employee Spotlight**



MAJ Wanda Vaa is a Human Resources Staff Officer in the Office of the Surgeon General (OTSG) Human Resources Directorate. MAJ Vaa is in the Army Guard Reserve (AGR) program and hails from American Samoa. She's involved with enlisted extensions, mandatory removal date extensions, and various types of waivers. She runs the Surgeon General's 9A program and is an action officer for the Army's Quality of Life Task Force.

MAJ Vaa joined OTSG in February 2020. Prior to joining OTSG she was a healthcare recruiter in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She learned about opportunities that were available for recruits such as education and other benefits. Some of them, she wished she had known about when she was a young Soldier.

Her recruiting experience came full circle, she said, after she joined the team at OTSG. "I handle accessions waivers now. I used to be on the end where I was sending the waiver request up but now I'm here and have a better understanding of the process. So now when I am on the phone with USAREC (United States Army Recruiting Command), I can better manage their frustrations. I can help them understand the process, what goes into it. Also, I'm now in a position to help streamline the process and offer suggestions on how to get them through the process faster."

Before joining the AGR program, MAJ Vaa served in both the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. MAJ Vaa said she'd always known that she would join the Army as her desire to do so is among her first memories. She knew she would become an Army officer. And while she comes from a military family (both parents are retirees), she is the first officer.

MAJ Vaa is an ROTC graduate from Wentworth Military Academy and College in Lexington, Missouri. The school required ROTC students to be in the Reserve. In order to meet that requirement, MAJ Vaa initially joined the Army Reserve as a plumber because it had the shortest military occupational specialty school compared to the other options.

## TSG SENDS CONT. (August 19, 2021)

MAJ Vaa is a mother of two and recently celebrated her five-year wedding anniversary. She said she enjoys eating and experiencing different restaurants, going to the movies, exercising, and travel. As a mom of toddlers, she said that she now also seeks out fun things to do with children such as going to the circus, theme parks, and finding new play areas.

"I'm really into people, though," said MAJ Vaa. "I love to talk to people about where they're from and learn about them. I'm Somoan. Amongst Somoans, we never meet a stranger. We have a strong heritage of loyalty and unity. Our family bonds are very close knit. This extends out into how I interact with others. I take a pause during the day and go talk to people. I've learned that if we genuinely take care of people, people will go to bat and get the mission done."

Thank you MAJ Vaa for sharing with us this week. We appreciate you and your family's service to the Nation.

Continue to stay safe out there. Thank you for what you do!

Army Medicine is Army Strong!

TSG 45

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R. SCOTT DINGLE

Lieutenant General, U.S. Army

The Surgeon General and

Commanding General, USAMEDCOM

### Useful links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

<https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/covid19>

[www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus)

[www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

[www.usa.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)

### Chaplain Resilience Video:

[www.facebook.com/ArmyChaplainCorps/videos/2679539028980334](https://www.facebook.com/ArmyChaplainCorps/videos/2679539028980334)

## DSG(S) SENDS (August 19, 2021)

Team,

Thanks to those who participated in-person and virtually at last week's town hall. I appreciate the questions and the opportunity to provide all of you information about what is going on within the MEDCOM, Army, and MHS. I will continue to host sessions to compliment your DCoS and supervisor's communication efforts. Your participation and engagement in these sessions is key.

To all who endured the warm temperatures of Bldg 2792 – the 502d worked diligently to install a unit as a mitigation until the contractor can install the needed part to fix the system. Thanks to CPT White and her team for keeping everyone informed of progress and providing status updates from the Base.

Attached is a message from the CSA regarding ongoing activity in Afghanistan. As we approach the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 these events likely amplify our individual personal reflection.

Our MEDCOM continues to lean in to and support the Army in a wide range of simultaneous, short-notice operations – ranging from the 82d Airborne's Global Response Force deployment to Afghanistan, assembling Critical Care teams to support community COVID response, and contingency planning for medical support to areas impacted by Severe Weather. I do not underestimate the stress of the OPTEMPO these no-fail missions cause – particularly on a force already fatigued from sustained operations.

The stress of OPTEMPO combined with the anniversary of 9/11, amplified by the events in Afghanistan are profound. Please know your leadership understands, appreciates, and encourages anyone who needs additional emotional and/or spiritual support to seek it. Our Senior leaders are acutely aware of provider fatigue and actively monitoring the resilience of our front-line healthcare workers; we would be remiss not to acknowledge staff fatigue as well. Please take care of yourself and each other – and let leadership know if you need resources and support.

As I said at the Town Hall – the JBSA based team does some incredible heavy lifting in support of the full range of MEDCOM missions and daily operations and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you – the fact we are continuing mission while San Antonio and JBSA wrestle with local challenges with the COVID variant is remarkable. Our current slant for COVID+/ROM is <5 Total and I implore everyone to keep up the great work exercising good Force Protection measures – at work, at home, and in the community.

Also attached is the OTSG DPA Sends highlighting OTSG / MEDCOM events – Team MEDCOM JBSA is proud to have Mr. Richard Kling from Protocol as the employee spotlight.

Have a great weekend and please stay safe.

Vr,  
BG Lodi

Paula C. Lodi  
BG, USA  
Deputy Commanding General (Support)  
USA MEDCOM